

September 2010

MissionPost

„Where Word and action meet“

Mission House 5 year party review

Starting into the sixest year

A new beginning



MISSION
HOUSE
AMSTELRANK



EDITORIAL

Welcome to our new Missionpost. It looks new, it feels new – it is new! As part of last years community we took over the job from Iain, who is happy to see past volunteers play an active role in developing the project. First of all we changed the look of Missionpost. It is now an electronic newsletter that you can receive via Email or Download from our home- page. Everything you see here, you can also find on the Homepage in the Media rubric under Missionpost. Can't find the Email anymore? No problem, you will be able to find all of our stories on the website, promised. Second of all we try to introduce various kinds of rubrics. The Missionpost will be mainly in English, but every issue will also feature some articles in Dutch, so you can maintain a bit of your Dutch knowledge. Nice? And

we will have a prayer of the frog story in every issue, carefully selected by Buchanan.

So not only will we inform about news and stories, but also try to include our faith in the Missionpost to ensure sure we can fulfill our slogan "Where Word and action meet". The Mission House leadership opened up the newsletter to us and we want to follow in their footsteps and open it up to you, so please write us stories or send us funny pictures, anything you think will add to MissionPost - alumni@missionhouse.nl.

We are planning further issues for January and June so please think hard and help us to make this your MissionPost.

Sincerely,

Tobias Schaap and Buchanan Grant

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MissionPost

„Where Word and action meet“

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A FURIOUS NEW START OF THE YEAR

We write the date, the 21st, three weeks after the 1st of September. Three stormy and turbulent weeks, with some awkward silences on the first day, but mostly big laughs. Three stormy and turbulent weeks because for several reasons I've spent three of my evenings having bonding-time in the hospital. Three stormy and turbulent weeks because lots of adventures have already been experienced by the new group of volunteers, who are all very motivated to start working in projects very soon!

As for me, I'm enjoying it. Again. I guess I will never



really get used to the position of houseleader.

There are always new things to learn and to find out, new things to struggle with and new things to enjoy. To be short; challenges are always to be found just around the corner!

And so a new year has started, another ten months, full of challenges, which I, but surely also Iain and the volunteers, will take with both hands.

So, a lot of things to look forward to!

Be prepared to follow all the developments

Erjo Beitler (House leader)



WHERE WORD AND ACTION MEET

My father told me story once of a boatman which I would like to share with you.

There was once a boatman who owned a boat with two oars which he named Faith and Works. He was asked one day why he had painted the name Faith and Works on his oars. In answer he slipped the oar named faith into the water and began to row. The boat made a very tight circle but went nowhere.

Returning to the dock he said, "Let us now try works without faith and see what happens?" Again the boat went into a very tight circle but



this time in the opposite direction while again making no progression across the lake.

The boatman again returned to the dock and said, "If you want to cross the lake, both oars are required to work together, one oar is never enough."

So it is in the Mission House for the volunteers, and all of us Our faith implies that we are in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour and that we grow in holiness of life through him. Quite simply we are not only meant to hear the word of God but also put his word, to us, into practice. This is what the Mission House is all about 'Where Word and Action meet', the Word of God and action coming together hand in hand, a year hearing the story of our neighbour and helping them, sometimes just by being there and treating them as an equal, or listening. It is not a year of evangelising through words and preaching but rather to be like the quiet soldier working in the back-ground.

If we feel overwhelmed by the whole prospect and believe it beyond our capacity or capabilities, it is worth remembering that when the disciples looked to Jesus, and said "Lord, increase our faith."¹ Jesus told them that all they needed was a speck of faith, no bigger than a mustard seed. He assured them that this speck of faith will grow, if it is nurtured and watered through hearing the promises of God, believing them and acting on them.²

Please keep following us this year through our website and if you are in the neighbourhood pop in for cup of tea and come and see us.

God Bless,

_____ Iain Majcher (Project Leader)

1 Luke 17:5

2 Luke 17:6 & Matthew 13:31



5 JAAR MISSION HOUSE

Een prachtige, zwoele vrijdag-zomeravond, de binnenplaats van de Corvershof. Rond de tafel zitten we met zo'n 15 mensen, uit allemaal verschillende Mission House jaren. Ieder heeft eigen ervaringen, eigen hoogte- en dieptepunten, maar al pratend herkent iedereen zich wel in een verhaal van iemand anders. Als we het hebben over 'liefde tijdens het Mission House jaar' komen de leukste anekdotes op tafel. Ondanks dat ieder jaar een totaal ander Mission House team opleverde, en ondanks onze verschillende talen en landen van herkomst, zijn we samen één familie. Het is een begin van een prachtig weekend.

In de loop van vrijdag komen de meeste ex-Mission Housers aan. We kijken het WKvoetbal: Nederland tegen Brazilië. Volledig onverwacht wint Nederland, en om dat te vieren duiken een paar mensen in de Nieuwe Herengracht. 's Avonds is er een heerlijke maaltijd in de Corvershof.

De zaterdag begint met een uitgebreid en zonnig ontbijt in de tuin. Daarna gaan we met vereende krachten aan het werk om een spetterend barbecuefeest (uiteraard: barbecue) voor te bereiden. 's Middags arriveren vele oude bekenden uit Amsterdam en Nederland. Er wordt gegeten, gedronken, gelachen, in het Kregelhuis staan scherm en beamer paraat voor alweer een WK-wedstrijd, PKN-directeur Haije Feenstra spreekt, en met hem nog een paar anderen, de Blikveld-band - met daarin ook Mission Housers - treedt op, er wordt gevoetbald in de tuin,

kortom: we zagen dat het zéér goed was.

Zondagochtend gaat iedereen naar de kerk van zijn of haar eigen keuze, of ligt onder het gehoor van 'dominee Beddelaken'. Aan het begin van de middag wordt in de tuin met afzetlint en bamboestokken een mega-labyrinth opgebouwd, terwijl ook de tafel wordt gedekt voor een lunch met ex-Mission Housers en gasten. Het is zonnig, lekker, gezellig, en langzamerhand doet iedereen het Labyrinth, dat gelijk de opmaat is naar de kerkdienst. Opdrachten en voorwerpen uit het labyrinth komen terug in de viering: Deze vindt plaats op de jongerenzolder van de Van Limmikhof, en heeft allerlei elementen rondom het thema 'looking back with thanks, looking around with joy, and looking forward with hope'. Mission Enabler Wayne Hawkins leidt de dienst, en velen hebben een inbreng. Na de zegen is er een high tea met Mission House taart in de tuin.

Het weekend loopt ten einde, maar iedereen neemt een schitterende Mission House glossy, Mission House memorystick, Mission House gadgets, kaars en vooral een prachtige herinnering mee naar huis.

Het volgende Mission House jubileum is pas in 2015. Of is het zes-, zeven-, acht-, en negenjarig bestaan van het Mission House óók een reden voor een jubileumfeestje? Zo niet dan toch zeker wel een aanleiding voor een 'familieunie'?

Sjaak Teuwissen (projectleider 2005-2009)

Fotos zijn op missionhouse.nl



WORD SEARCH

We made a small word search for you guys, agonal. Have fun!
find the words hidden vertical, horizontal or di-

T	D	S	B	B	L	T	Z	N	V	M	P	G	W	W	E	N	G	C	Z
L	H	T	L	N	W	L	Y	N	L	D	B	G	Q	H	M	T	A	Z	W
Y	C	R	E	W	A	T	E	R	L	O	O	P	L	E	I	N	A	V	P
Q	N	O	V	O	N	D	E	L	P	A	R	K	I	W	T	L	O	T	F
B	G	O	W	C	L	A	M	S	T	E	R	D	A	M	Y	A	D	K	G
C	R	P	Z	I	N	M	O	M	E	N	T	E	G	J	L	T	L	N	R
F	M	W	E	Q	N	K	V	M	Q	C	Y	E	C	W	I	S	G	A	A
O	E	A	S	T	G	D	O	Y	I	A	S	T	V	N	M	A	N	R	C
R	T	F	U	H	M	D	M	X	S	T	G	S	U	Y	A	P	I	L	H
A	R	F	O	C	G	H	W	O	A	R	T	M	Y	Y	F	T	T	E	T
N	O	E	H	O	T	U	S	M	L	O	S	A	F	M	T	O	E	T	J
J	B	L	N	O	I	X	P	C	P	E	M	K	T	B	K	O	E	S	K
E	M	N	O	P	W	O	H	P	Z	T	N	E	L	A	I	N	M	M	D
S	U	D	I	N	T	X	Y	G	Z	Q	J	L	X	L	P	L	E	A	Z
T	U	D	S	O	H	Z	F	N	V	I	U	I	T	B	Q	E	S	F	Z
T	C	V	S	D	T	V	G	I	O	K	Y	J	L	D	Z	Z	U	P	C
M	J	P	I	N	D	A	K	A	A	S	P	K	K	E	O	A	O	L	A
V	L	A	M	B	H	B	L	I	K	V	E	L	D	Y	A	H	H	U	L
N	E	S	T	E	I	F	S	G	T	R	U	B	E	K	S	T	A	W	P
Z	U	J	E	S	H	D	C	T	Y	G	I	L	L	E	Z	E	G	U	I

AMSTELRANK
EETSMAKELIJK
GEZELLIG
HOUSEMEETING
ORANJE PATAT
STROOPWAFFELN
WATERLOOPLEIN
ZINMOMENT

AMSTERDAM
FAMILYTIME
GRACHT
METRO
PINDAKAAS
VLA
WATSKEBURT

BLIKVELD
FIETSEN
HAZELNOOTPASTA
MISSIONHOUSE
STAMPOT
VONDELPARK
WINDMOLEN



A NEW BEGINNING

The first weeks of living in the Mission House in Amsterdam will be full of new experiences. Living with new people, sleeping and eating in a new house, shopping and walking in a new city. Working in new places, with new colleagues and new clients. Making new friends, eating new food and learning a new language!

Doing new things can be really exciting, because eating new food and living in a new place are good things to do. Being in a new place and experiencing new things helps to broaden our horizons and appreciate that there are good things and people to be discovered in other places. Working in a homelessness shelter, hospice or children's club will give opportunities to learn and develop skills that we didn't know we had. We learn new things about ourselves, skills and abilities, as well as hang-up's and shortcomings.

Doing new things can be scary too, because no one enjoys being out of control of situations or experiencing so much change that we lose our bearings and feel somewhat lost. In the first weeks of being in the Mission House there will be so much that is new, but others have shared those experiences and offer encouragement and support.

For those of us who are beginning something new – as a Mission House volunteer year, a new university, a new job, moving to a new home, or beginning a new relationship – new things are exciting and scary. But always worth the risk!

We need to be open to surprises as we face

those new challenges. The prophet Isaiah has God say (Isaiah 43:19) "See I am doing a new thing!" Then goes on to talk about flowers and gardens springing up in the desert – we need to be open to surprises, to discover new things happening in unfamiliar places. We need to be open to the surprise of finding goodness and compassion in the hardest places or discovering that beautiful places can be empty and barren.

We need to be open to the surprise of finding God in unlikely places and discovering God's likeness in unlikely people.

We need to be daring as we face those new challenges. Though everything may seem new as we begin another Mission House year, yet we should be daring to step out into these exciting challenges. We could stay at home where things are safe and familiar or we can dare to risk and dream of new things. We are all still learning and discovering new things about ourselves, the world and our place in it.

Be daring in our new beginnings and make a good start.

Wayne Hawkins (Mission Enabler)





BUCK'S GOOD NIGHT STORY

I've been reading a book that isn't "Prayer of the frog", for those amongst you who know me you may have to take a moment to collect yourself. Instead I've been reading "One Minute Wisdom" written by the late Anthony De Mello, who also happened to write...Prayer of the frog!

One story tells of a master explaining to his disciples the imprisoning effect of intelligence. Of how we are like prisoners admiring the vastness of our prison cells.

I had read this story many weeks ago and it wasn't until thinking what I could write for the MissionPost that this article jumped up and down in my head demanding attention. At first I didn't know why but then an incident came to mind that happened at work.

I work in an outdoor clothing store as a sales assistant, very basic, very mind numbing. One day a customer approached me looking perplexed, he was holding a jacket that we call a "3 in 1". He, along with his wife, couldn't work out what made up the three items. So he asked me and immediately I explained that it included the fleece and the outer jacket and the third must be...the third must be...Well now I was stuck along with the two customers. Along comes Bob!

"Bob", a made up name, is a real colleague of mine who unfortunately lacks social skills and self-confidence. Bob tries hard and has a good heart but has left school at the age of 17 being unable to perform basic arithmetic or spell basic

words. Now I'm no Newton or Shakespeare for sure but Bob simply isn't the sharpest knife in the drawer.

I asked Bob if he knew what made up the 3 items to which he immediately replies:

"Fleece, jacket & fleece and jacket together" after which he wanders off leaving the three of us to be completely shocked at our own stupidity.

The two customers laughed it off but you could see their embarrassment at being out-smarted by Bob. I noticed this because I felt the exact same for a moment, then caught myself.

I had elevated myself above Bob unconsciously so that when he helped in the situation he upset my childish and arrogant concept that I was defacto right and Bob defacto wrong. I pondered on this and thought at how Bob gave the answer then wandered off while I would have likely stayed around to bask in the glory of being right in the face of others being wrong. Bob showed no such neediness.

My intelligence (limited as it is!) too quickly shapes how I perceive myself and others around me. This was something I was aware of in Mission House but had forgotten upon returning home. Let's hope I remember this lesson for longer!

Buchanan Grant (Mission House 2009/10)